



F**o**cuses on Housing

A Monthly Bulletin Summarizing MSHDA Housing News

April 2005

Website Address: www.michigan.gov/mshda
(TTY) 1-800-382-4568

Contact: **Mary Lou Keenon**
(517) 373-0011

Michigan's 2005 Affordable Housing Conference: Largest of its Kind in the Nation

The 7th annual Michigan Conference on Affordable Housing will take place May 16, 17 and 18 at the Lansing Center. This year's conference is the largest of its kind in the nation and is expected to reach top attendance records. The 2004 conference attendance was over 1,500. Trends show that each year the conference becomes larger and hosts more people concerned with Michigan's housing issues.

The conference theme, "Partners Building Communities," represents the goal of bringing affordable housing industry leaders together to revitalize their efforts and form new partnerships.

"The conference gives us the opportunity to reconnect with partners, and to form new relationships. We all need to be renewed in our mission, and this is the place to do it," said Jess Sobel, conference chairperson.

Over 25 statewide and federal organizations on the conference planning committee have contributed time, money, resources and expertise over the past year to build a successful conference.

The 2005 conference's educational tracks will focus on the six main areas of Michigan's affordable housing issues; Community Economic Development, Ending Homelessness, Multi-Family Development, Homeownership, Preservation and Organizational Development. Workshops, networking opportunities and discussions will concentrate on these key areas.

Chris Gardner, a conference keynote speaker, will be kicking-off the conference Monday at 11:30 a.m. Gardner, president & CEO of Gardner Rich & Company, an institutional brokerage firm, has a modern day "rags-to-riches" story which has brought him to the conference; and has caught Hollywood's attention. Just 20 years ago, Gardner and his son were homeless and living in a transit station bathroom. His story is currently in script development and movie star Will Smith is slated to play Gardner in the upcoming movie.

The conference will also host two media roundtable discussions, both to take place on Wednesday morning. Discussion topics are the challenges of finding affordable housing solutions and homelessness in Michigan. The housing roundtable will be hosted by Tim Skubick., host and producer of WKAR's "Off the Record," at 9:45 a.m. The panelists are Henry Cisneros, Mark McDaniel, Linda Smith and Steve Tobocman. The homelessness discussion will be hosted by Doris Biscoe, president and CEO of Doris Biscoe Communications Inc. at 10:45 a.m. The panelists are MSHDA executive director Michael DeVos, Noreen Keating, Ellen Kissinger-Rothey and Pamela Paul-Shaheen.

A new addition to the conference will be a "Green Room" confessional, located in the Communications Hub at the front of the exhibit hall. The confessional will be set up as a private video recording studio where attendees can share their experiences, concerns and perceptions of the work that they do. The video clips will be aired throughout the conference and will be made available for additional use.

Other keynote speakers include Henry Cisneros, Chairman & CEO of the American CityVista and former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and James Inglis, Executive Director of the Livonia Housing Commission & President of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). Additional remarks will be made by Tony Benavides, Mayor of Lansing and Michael DeVos.

For more information about the conference, speakers, sessions and interview opportunities, visit www.housingconference.org or contact Mary Lou Keenon at keenonm@michigan.gov.

Just a Reminder – We have a standing offer for any members of the media who would like to have MSHDA staff either appear on radio talk shows or television news broadcasts, or provide guest columns or articles for publications. Raising public awareness for low- and moderate-income residents throughout the state of MSHDA's many affordable housing options is always a well-received subject in any news medium, and we would welcome any opportunities you can provide.

MSHDA GRANTS

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Contact Telephone #</u>
CDBG		
Barry County	\$250,000	(269) 945-1284
Calhoun County	\$121,900	(269) 781-9841
City of Marshall	\$341,400	(269) 789-4604
City of Portland	\$385,000	(517) 647-2931
City of Portland	\$386,150	(517) 647-2931
City of Three Rivers	\$341,400	(616) 273-1075
Kalamazoo County	\$300,000	(616) 373-5275
Monroe County	\$300,000	(734) 241-2777
HOME COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		
Bay Area Housing, Inc.	\$280,000	(989) 893-9292
Community Development Corporation of Warren	\$260,000	(586) 427-4300
Lighthouse Communities, Inc.	\$239,500	(616) 451-9140
Lighthouse Communities, Inc.	\$234,400	(616) 451-9140
FiveCAP Inc.	\$225,000	(231) 757-3785
COOL CITIES		
City of Portland	\$238,850	(517) 647-2931
HOUSING RESOURCE FUND		
Altrusa Teen Share	\$3,150	(517) 278-5094
City of Sault Ste. Marie	\$20,000	(906) 635-1521
Greater Eastside Community Association	\$150,000	(810) 233-0507
Janzen House, Inc.	\$17,823	(906)
YWCA of Greater Flint	\$55,500	(810) 238-7621

MSHDA'S APRIL SINGLE FAMILY AND PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT PRODUCTION

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number of Housing Units</u>	<u>Dollar</u>
Single Family	60	\$5,295,166
Michigan Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC)	37	\$2,894,641
Property Improvement Program (PIP)	13	\$ 122,858

MSHDA PUBLICATIONS

MSHDA Focuses on Housing is published monthly and is available on the MSHDA Web site, www.michigan.gov/mshda. Click on "about MSHDA" and go to publications